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ASSOCIATED PRESS
28 October 1985

SOVIET DEFECTOR KILLED BY KGB, REPORT SAYS
NEW YORK

Nicholas Shadrin, a Soviet Navy officer who defected in 1959 and worked as a double agent for the United States, was kidnapped in Austria 16 years later and executed as a traitor by the KGB, NBC Nightly News reported Monday.

Vitaly Yurchenko, the most recent of several Soviet defectors, has told U.S. debriefers that the Soviets kidnapped Shadrin on Dec. 20, 1975, and killed him the same day, NBC said, quoting unidentified intelligence sources.

According to the report, Shadrin was sent to Vienna, Austria, to act as bait in a combined CIA -FBI plan to protect a highly placed intelligence agent. But the agent was actually was part of an elaborate KGB scheme to kidnap Shadrin and kill him, NBC said.

Joe Krovisky, a spokesman for the Justice Department reached by The Associated Press on Monday, said, "I don't know a thing about it. "

Shadrin, who was the youngest destroyer captain in the Soviet Navy when he defected, was tried in absentia for providing military secrets to the U.S. and sentenced to death _ a sentence carried out 16 years after the defection, the report said.

The CIA, Department of State and Department of Justice refused to comment to NBC on the report, as did his wife, Eva Shadrin.

Shadrin and his wife defected together, and he eventually became a naval analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency, the intelligence-gathering arm of the Pentagon. He became an American citizen by a special act of Congress in 1965.

Federal officials said Shadrin was approached in 1966 by Soviet agents to become a spy. Shadrin told the FBI about the incident, and he became a double agent for the United States, providing the Soviets with bogus information.

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